sulcata, medio flava, fusco marginata: *vertebralia* planiora, quorum primum pentagonum, latum, gibbosum; secundum et tertium transversè hexagona; quartum hexagonum, posticè angustius et productum; quintum reliquis latius, gibbosum, ad marginem posteriorem rotundatum: *costalia* plana, areolis centralibus; primum trapezium; secundum et tertium pentagona, angulo superiori obtuso; quartum subquadratum: *marginalia* ferè integra; primum horizontale; secundum et tertium obliquè prominentia; quatuor sequentia quadrata, subperpendicularia; reliqua subresupinata. *Scutum nuchale* nullum: *caudale* altum, latum, gibbosum, apice incurvo. *Sternum* latum, anticè et posticè angustius. *Scuta jugalia* parva, prominentia, subbidentata; *humeralia* subrectangula; *pectoralia* trigona, angustissima; *abdominalia* quadrata, rectangula, maxima; *femoralia* crassa, rectangula; *analia* angulata, prominentia, emarginationem triangularem formantia.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	ped.	in.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	1	4	0
Latitudo ejusdem	0	10	0
Altitudo	0	6	5
Sterni longitudo	1	0	0

The great similarity which exists between the only two known species of land Tortoise inhabiting the continent of America, namely, the present species and *T. carbonaria,* and the remarkable differences which characterize the former in the young, the adult, and the aged state, have occasioned the greatest possible confusion in the synonymy. Even up to the present time, many of the errors of former naturalists remain uncorrected; and it has not been without much care and hesitation that I have at length determined upon the list of synonyms prefixed to this description. I have, however, been most careful to investigate all the authorities within my reach, and have given none upon which any doubt remained in my own mind. It is only by the collation of many specimens of different ages that we can possibly be satisfied of the identity of *Testudo denticulata* of Schœpff, which is the animal just excluded from the egg,—of *T. sculpta* of Spix, which is its young state, not yet half grown,—

of *T. tabulata* of Wallbaum and of Schœpff, which is the adult animal,—and of *T. Hercules* of Spix, and *T. Polyphemus* of Daudin and Gray, in which the shell has become more extended posteriorly, and the plates smoothed by age. The examination of the animal in either of these stages by its description in any other, would necessarily lead to this multiplication of species; but the possession of many specimens of all ages has enabled me to trace the gradual changes which the animal undergoes, and to ascertain their absolute identity. Mr. Gray has indeed followed Daudin in considering the *Gopher* of Bartram as a distinct species; but I have been assured by the Prince of Musignano, who has had great opportunities of examining that Tortoise in its native country, that it is certainly the same; and he has adopted, for the present species, the specific name *Polyphemus* in his catalogue of the Testudinata of North America and of Europe, appended to his "Osservazioni sulla seconda edizione del Regno Animale del Barone Cuvier," in which he gives the name *tabulata* as a synonym.

Notwithstanding the authority of Mr. Gray to the contrary, I cannot help believing that the long-disputed *Testudo sulcata* of Shaw, figured by Miller in the Cimelia Physica, may be this species. In this opinion I am supported by the habitat assigned to it by Shaw, who says, "This species is said to be a native of the West Indies, and perhaps may be the *Hicatee* of Brown, slightly described in his History of Jamaica." And he concludes by this observation; "Upon the whole, I cannot avoid entertaining a suspicion that this Tortoise may be in reality the same as *T. tabulata.*" The general appearance of the shell as well as of the head, bears a very great resemblance to the present animal; and the errors in the drawing, supposing this opinion to be correct, are not greater than occur in many other instances in similar works.

On the other hand it appears from the supplementary portion of Mr. Gray's Synopsis, that he has seen, in the museum of Frankfort, two specimens of a tortoise, which he agrees with Dr. Ruppell in considering "as the long-lost *T. sulcata* of Shaw." These specimens were brought from Abyssinia by Dr. Ruppell. May they not possibly be a variety of *T. pardalis*? As I have not had the advantage of a personal inspection of the specimens, I feel unwilling to be more decided on a point involved in such doubt and obscurity.